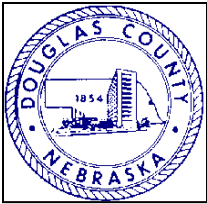


# Douglas County 2010 Marriage License Annual Report



**Thomas F. Cavanaugh**

Douglas County Clerk/Comptroller [www.douglascountyclerk.org](http://www.douglascountyclerk.org)  
1819 Farnam Street, H08  
Omaha, NE 68183

## Did you know?

- \* The original marriage license is to be returned to our office within 15 days of the wedding by the officiate.
- \* Douglas County Clerk's office has a list of judges who perform wedding ceremonies.
- \* We have marriage records dating back to 1856
- \* You can download and fill out the marriage application from our website before coming into our office
- \* Both the bride and groom should be present with valid ID when applying for license.

## Inside this issue:

Information needed	2
Name change information	2
Who may perform ceremony	2
Making your announcement	3
Announcing your engagement	3
Statistics of weddings	3
Frequently asked questions	4

## Marriage License Summary



In 2010 the County Clerk's office issued 3,807 marriage licenses. We issued 79 less marriage licenses in 2010 than we did in 2009.

The average age for the groom was 32 years old and the average age for the bride was 30 years old. The youngest groom was 17 and the oldest was 86. The youngest bride was also 17, and the oldest bride was 83.

The biggest age difference between a bride and groom was a couple whose bride was

54 years old and groom was 30 years old, and the biggest age difference between a groom and bride was a couple whose groom was 86 years old and bride was 40 years old.

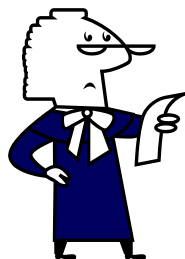
The busiest month of the year was the month of June, in which we issued 436 marriage licenses. The least busy month of the year was the month of December, in which we only issued 199 marriage licenses.

We had an decrease in the number of Omaha residents apply-

ing for marriage licenses in 2010 compared to 2009. There were 6,208 Omaha resident applicants in 2010 compared to 6,308 in 2009.

Between the years 1999 and 2009, the lowest number of marriage licenses issued was 3,631 in 2005 and the highest number of licenses issued was in 2001 with 4,506 licenses.

## Judges available for marriage ceremonies



In 2010 we had a total of twenty-one judges performing marriage ceremonies with five of them performing Spanish ceremonies. Those five judges are: Marcena M. Hendrix,

Craig Q. McDermott, Thomas G. McQuade, Stephen M. Swartz and Joseph S. Troia.

A list of judges may be obtained upon request by calling 444-6080.

A blood test is no longer required to obtain a marriage license.

The marriage license can be used anywhere in the state of Nebraska.



The bride and groom also receive a Keepsake Marriage License to be filled out by the officiate.



#### DID YOU KNOW?

- There is a 6 month waiting period after a divorce.
- There is no age limit for witnesses, but they must be able to sign their name and address.
- Both bride and groom must be present for the marriage ceremony-proxy marriages are not legal in the State of Nebraska.

#### Marriage license applicants supply the following for their license

• **Fee** of \$15.00 in cash or certified check.

• **Proof of Identity/Age**, a valid driver's license, state ID, military ID, passport or a certified birth certificate. If proof is not furnished, the license cannot be issued.

• **Social Security numbers** of both the bride and groom are requested on the Marriage License application.

• **A Notarized Consent Form** is required if either groom or bride are not of **legal age (19)**. It must be signed by the person's father, mother, legal

guardian or custodian giving consent to the marriage of the minor. If either the groom or bride is under 17 years of age, a license cannot be issued.

If any of the listed items are missing, the marriage license is held pending the additional item(s) needed as noted on the marriage checklist.

You may download a [sample application](#) for a marriage license through the internet on the County Clerk's web page. The Douglas County Clerk's web address is:

**[www.douglascountyclerk.org](http://www.douglascountyclerk.org)**

#### Name change information for the bride

You will need a certified copy of your marriage license to change your name on your drivers license and to change your Social Security records. Certified copies of marriage licenses are \$5.00 per certified copy. You can prepay for a certified copy at the time you get your license.

**For information on how to change your name on your driver's license, call the Douglas County Treasurer's office at 444-7103.**

**For information on how to change your Social Security records, call 1-800-772-1213.**

#### Marriage ceremony; who may perform

Every judge, retired judge, clerk magistrate, or retired clerk magistrate, and every individual authorized by the usages of the church to which he or she belongs to solemnize marriages, may perform the marriage ceremony in this state. Every person performing the marriage ceremony shall make a return of his or her proceedings, showing the names and residences of at least two witnesses who were present at such marriage. **The return shall be made to the county clerk who is-**

**sued the license within fifteen days after the marriage has been performed.** The county clerk shall record the return in the same book where the marriage license is recorded.

## Announcing your engagement

Did you know that you can download the form to submit your engagement or wedding announcement to the Omaha World-Herald?

Just go to [www.Omaha.com](http://www.Omaha.com), click on the living section and pick the Celebrations tab. Look for the box on the left "To place a celebration notice—click here". You will be able to choose several forms of celebrations.

The Omaha World-Herald suggests that engagement announcements are made six months before the wedding and wedding announcement

pictures given no less than two weeks prior to the desired publish date.

For any questions, you can call the announcement desk at 444-1328.



To request a copy of the Omaha World-Herald's Wedding Essentials Magazine go to:

[www.weddingessentialsmagazine.com](http://www.weddingessentialsmagazine.com).

**Douglas County  
Offices  
are closed  
on the following  
holidays.**

New Year's Day  
Martin Luther King Day  
President's Day  
Memorial Day  
Independence Day  
Labor Day  
Columbus Day  
Veteran's Day  
Thanksgiving Day  
Day after Thanksgiving  
Christmas Day

**Douglas County Clerk  
Marriage License Staff**

Deb Benitez  
Carla Wesley  
Maria Alcala

And when needed:  
Consepcion Mayorga  
Mary Brown

Please call us at 444-6080 with any questions pertaining to a marriage license. If a correction is needed, please call our office before making any corrections.

**Our office hours are Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. We recommend coming before or after the lunch hour as it is our busiest time of the day.**

## Statistics of wedding ceremonies by Judges in 2010

January	98	July	128
February	129	August	141
March	141	September	134
April	153	October	123
May	145	November	108
June	135	December	103

Most of these ceremonies were performed by Judges from Douglas County Court and District Court. The average number of judges from outside Douglas County or retired judges is 6 per month.

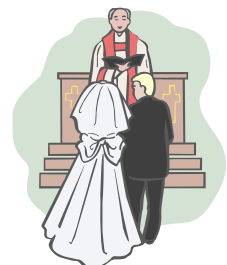
## Interesting facts

The busiest days of the year to apply for marriage licenses seem to be Friday before Labor Day, Valentines Day and New Year's Eve. The busiest time of day is during the lunch hour.

### Number of marriage licenses issued each year by Douglas County:



1999	3,884
2000	4,191
2001	4,506
2002	4,092
2003	3,730
2004	3,826
2005	3,631
2006	3,716
2007	3,869
2008	3,898
2009	3,886
2010	3,807



Douglas County Clerk/Comptroller  
1819 Farnam Street, Room H08  
Omaha, NE 68183

**WE WORK  
FOR YOU.**

Phone: 402-444-6080  
Fax: 402-444-6456  
E-mail: [tcavanaugh@douglascounty-ne.gov](mailto:tcavanaugh@douglascounty-ne.gov)

## Frequently asked questions

### **Who may apply for a Marriage License?**

Any person who is at least 19 years old may apply for a marriage license. Any minor who is 17 or 18 years old may apply for a marriage license with a parental or legal guardian consent. The consent form must be notarized.

### **Where is the Douglas County Clerks office?**

The office is located in the Civic Center at 1819 Farnam Street, Room H08 (Harney Level). Our hours are 8:00—5:00, Monday through Friday. We are closed on the holidays shown on the previous page.

### **Does the marriage license expire?**

The license must be used before one year after issuance from the Clerk's office.

### **Will I need a duplicate copy of my marriage license?**

The bride will need a certified copy of the marriage licenses for purposes of changing her last name on her driver's license and social security card. For a certified copy of your marriage license, please fill out a request form from our website. The fee is \$5.00 per certified copy. You can mail the request in or bring it to our office at: Douglas County Clerk; 1819 Farnam Street, H08; Omaha, NE 68183. We have records from 1856 to present. We will need to know the bride's maiden name, the groom's name and the date of the ceremony. A copy of your ID will be requested.

### **Do I need witnesses to get married?**

You will need two witnesses when you get married. The witnesses do not need to be present when you get the license, but they will need to be present at the marriage ceremony.

### **Will my name be published in the newspaper?**

Nebraska marriage licenses are public record. Your name and age will be published in the Omaha World-Herald and in the Daily Record. The newspapers come in daily to pick up the list of names of the applicants from the day before. Usually your name will be printed within a couple of days after the day that you applied. If you do not want your name in the paper, you will need to discuss that with the Omaha World-Herald at 444-1000 or the Daily Record at 345-1303.

### **If I live in one county of Nebraska but we are getting married in a different county in Nebraska, where do I obtain my marriage license?**

You may obtain your marriage license in any county in Nebraska as long as you get married in Nebraska. The marriage license certificate will be on file in the county where you obtained the marriage license.

### **If we are getting married in another state but live in Nebraska, where do we obtain our marriage license?**

You will need to obtain your marriage license in the state where you are getting married.

### **I got married in another state/country. Do I need to file the license here?**

No, you do not need to file your marriage license from another state/country in Nebraska.

**More questions?** Please call us at (402) 444-6080.

**WEBSITE:** [www.douglascountyclerk.org](http://www.douglascountyclerk.org)